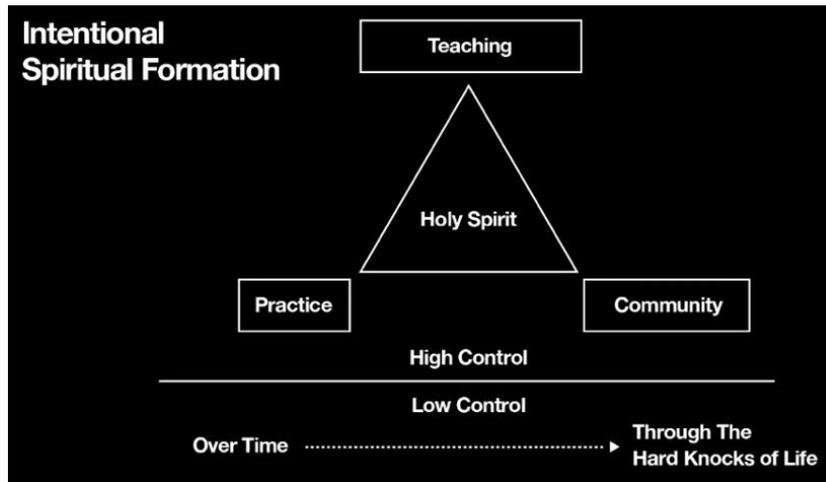




(Here is Chris' talk if you missed it <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdjUly6AAWA>)

Series Recap:



Can community become family?

Family is one of the most common metaphors to describe the relationship between the people of God in the Bible.

Chris shared this table as an outline for his talk, which we will unpack and discuss

Understanding God's	Blue Print	Plan	Finest
Overcoming our	Brokenness	Pain	Fears/Failures
Entering into God's	Blessing	Purposes	Future

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S BLUE PRINT/PLAN/FINEST

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." ²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Questions

- Who do you think God is talking to here when he uses the pronouns “us” and “our”?
- Reading the NT it seems like Jesus clarifies God was probably talking to Himself as the trinity in this passage. What does this tell us about the character and nature of God?
- If humankind is created in the image of God, and God from the very beginning was in unity with the Trinity, what are some ways in which we are designed to reflect the character and nature based off this passage?

OVERCOMING OUR BROKENESS/PAIN/FEARS & FAILURES

Gen 3:6-13 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves ⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you? ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid. ¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from? ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

Questions

- This is where sin enters the world. List as many sins as you can from this passage.
- How does sin affect the different relationships in this passage (between man and woman, between them and God, between God and Satan, between Satan and the people)?
- Blame seems to have been a natural human response since the beginning. Are there any current or past situations in your life, or past, where your first response is or has been to blame others, rather than to introspectively take personal ownership for your own actions first?

ENTERING INTO GOD’S BLESSING/PURPOSES/FUTURE

Gen 12:1-3 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Luke 8:8-21 Now Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.” ²¹ He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”

Eph 3:10-19 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms,¹¹ according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.¹² In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.¹³ I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father,¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth derives its name.¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Questions

- The term “family” is a very common metaphor used to describe God’s people. What are some positive characteristics of a good family in which we can adopt as the people of God?
- What are some negative experiences or characteristics of families do we need to let go of and replace with God’s design for family?

Chris mentioned five practical examples of how we can enter into God’s blessing, purposes, and future:

1. Choose to be intentional.
2. Come to terms with your expectations . . . then adjust.
3. Choose to work hard at Christian family relationships.
4. Acknowledge that Jesus’ way is the better way.
5. Recognise your limits.

The “one another’s” of the New Testament (unity, love, humility, encouragement)



Reflection questions and prayer time

- Looking at the five practical tips Chris mentioned, with help from the following list of the “one another’s” of the New Testament, spend some time thinking and praying about anything you feel like God may be highlighting to you.
- Are there any that you struggle with?
- Are there any that you love to do?
- Are there any that come naturally to do but you have not walked in much recently? Are there any which do not come naturally to you, but you have really made an effort to grow in?

Unity

1. Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50)
2. Stop grumbling amongst one another (John 6:43)
3. Be of the same mind with one another (Rom 12:16, 15:5)
4. Accept one another (Rom 15:7)
5. Don't bite, devour, and consume one another (Gal 5:15)
6. Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Gal 5:26)
7. Don't bite, devour, and consume one another (Gal 5:15)
8. Don't boastfully challenge or envy one another (Gal 5:26)
9. Bearing with one another in love (Eph 4:2)
10. Be kind and compassionate to one another (Eph 4:32)
11. Bear with and forgive one another (Col 3:13)
12. Seek good for one another, and don't repay evil for evil (1 Thess 5:15)
13. Don't slander/grumble against one another (James 4:11, 5:9)
14. Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)

Love

1. Love one another (John 13:34, 15:12, 17; Rom 13:8; 1 Thess 3:12, 4:9; 1 Pet 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 4:7, 11; 2 John 5)
2. Through love, serve one another (Gal 5:13)
3. Bear with one another in love (Eph 4:2)
4. Greet one another with a kiss of love (1 Pet 5:14)
5. Be devoted to one another in love (Rom 12:10)

Humility

1. Give preference to one another in honour (Rom 12:10)
2. Regard one another as more important than yourselves (Phil 2:3)
3. Serve one another (Gal 5:13)
4. Wash one another's feet (John 13:14)
5. Live in harmony with one another (Rom 12:16)
6. Be subject to one another (Eph 5:21)
7. Clothe yourselves in humility toward one another (1 Pet 5:5)

Encouragement

1. Do not judge one another, and don't put a stumbling block in a brother's way (Rom 14:13)
2. Greet one another with a kiss (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12)
3. Husbands and wives: don't deprive one another of physical intimacy (1 Cor 7:5)
4. Bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)
5. Speak truth to one another (Eph 4:25)
6. Don't lie to one another (Col 3:9)
7. Comfort one another concerning the resurrection (1 Thess 4:18)
8. Encourage and build up one another (1 Thess 5:11)
9. Spur one another on to love and good deeds (Heb 10:24)
10. Pray for one another (James 5:16)
11. Be hospitable to one another (1 Pet 4:9)